

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 PC-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

ACDA-07 AID-05 /098 W

-----031142Z 108016 /22

O 031100Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3370

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7 IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KINSHASA 4163

PASS PEACE CORPS

USIA FOR IAA, IOP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: SITREP 50 (MAY 3, 1977)

1. FOLLOWING IS THE 50TH MISSION-WIDE SURVEY INCLUDING REPORTS

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FROM LUBUMBASHI.

MILITARY SITUATION AS OF 021800Z MAY 77.

NOTE: ALL GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCES ARE TAKEN FROM JOINT OPERATIONS
GRAPHIC SERIES 1501 MAPS.

2. HOSTILE FORCES:

A. HOSTILE FORCES AMBUSHED FAZ LEAD ELEMENTS (TASK FORCE

MUKOBO) 010700Z MAY VICINITY MUSANGU (1027S/2355E), WHERE HEAVY FIGHTING TOOK PLACE.

B. DDN REPORTS AMBUSHING FORCE WORE SAME OR SIMILAR UNIFORMS AS FAZ AND CONSISTED OF ELEMENTS OF "PIKOSO" BATTALION.

C. NO HOSTILE ACTIVITY REPORTED VICINITY KAKAKUMBA (0940S/2346E) OR KASAI-SHABA BORDER AREA. REPORTING STILL SLOW BECAUSE OF PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO SHABA.

3. ZAIRIAN FORCES:

A. DDN REPORTS TASK FORCE MUKOBO RETREATED TO VICINITY OF MASOJI (1027S/2401E) AFTER BEING AMBUSHED BY HOSTILE FORCES AT MUSANGU. CONTACT WITH HOSTILE FORCES LASTED APPROXIMATELY FIVE HOURS UNTIL 011200Z MAY. FAZ CASUALTIES WERE UNKNOWN KIA, 30 WIA.

B. VUADI BATTALION RECEIVED REINFORCEMENTS OF THREE COMPANIES ONE KAMANYOLA, ONE PYGMY AND ONE PARA-COMMANDO COMPANY. BATTALION REMAINS VICINITY OF KWANDA (0934S/2409E). MAJ. ZUYA HAS NOT AS YET ASSUMED COMMAND OF THIS BATTALION.

4. MOROCCAN FORCES: SECOND DIR WHICH WAS FOLLOWING TASK FORCE MUKOBO INITIALLY HAD DIFFICULTY ASSISTING FAZ ELEMENTS DURING AMBUSH DUE TO PROBLEM OF DISTINGUISHING FAZ FROM HOSTILES, HOWEVER, BY END OF THE AFTERNOON, 1 MAY, MOROCCANS WERE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN PUSHING HOSTILE FORCES BACK TO ORIGINAL POSITION OF AMBUSH, VICINITY MUSANGU. MOROCCAN CASUALTIES WERE 4 KIA AND 14 WIA.

5. AIR:

A. TWO MACCHI AIRCRAFT SUPPORTED FAZ DURING AMBUSH ON 1 MAY.
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EFFECTS OF AIR ATTACKS ON HOSTILE FORCES UNKNOWN. HOWEVER ONE MACCHI ATTACKED MOROCCAN COMMAND POST BUT THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES.

B. TWO ADDITIONAL MACCHI SORTIES FLOWN ON 2 MAY. NO RESULTS REPORTED.

C. THREE FAZA C-130 ARE OPERATIONAL.

D. ONE BUFFALO DAMAGED AT MUTSHATSHA (1039S/2426E), NOT DUE TO HOSTILE ACTION. REPAIR TEAM DEPARTED KINSHASA EARLY 2 MAY.

E. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS APPROX 50 EGYPTIAN PILOTS AND MECHANICS ARRIVED IN KINSHASA ON 2 MAY TO ASSIST FAZA WITH MIRAGE AIRCRAFT. DDN GIVES NO CONFIRMATION OF EGYPTIAN ARRIVAL.

6. DOMESTIC PRESS: REPORTS OF HEAVY FIGHTING, THE FIRST FOR THE MOROCCAN TROOPS, DOMINATE KINSHASA MEDIA MAY 3. BOTH DAILY NEWSPAPERS RUN SEVERAL PHOTOS OF MOBUTU AND AMIN AT THE FRONT, WHILE SUSPENSION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY ALSO PLAYED PROMINENTLY. ZAIRE PRESS AGENCY (AZAP) COMMENTARY NOTES THAT "TODAY MORE THAN EVER, THE MOMENT HAS COME FOR AFRICA TO CONCLUDE THAT THE ACCUSATIONS BROUGHT BY ZAIRE AGAINST THE USSR WERE NOT GRATUITOUS AND THAT THEY WERE BASED ON PALPABLE

FOUNDATIONS, IRREFUTABLE AND CHARACTERIZED BY THE IMPORTANT WAR ARSENAL OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE, RECOVERED ON THE BATTLEFIELD BY THE ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES." EVEN NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GARBA, SAYS AZAP ARTICLE, WAS "SCANDALIZED AND SHOCKED" BY HIS INSPECTION OF THE CAPTURED ITEMS, SO MUCH SO THAT "HE REFUSED ANY PRESS STATEMENT" ON HIS DEPARTURE. AZAP EDITORIAL STATES THAT "IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING" THAT EAST GERMANY WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE SHABA INVASION WITH "SALONGO" EDITORIAL STATING MUCH THE SAME. "ELIMA" EDITORIAL NOTES "COMFORTING FACTORS" OF MOBUTU'S PRESENCE IN SHABA, REVIVAL OF DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES AND AID GIVEN BY FRIENDLY NATIONS. EMBASSY COMMENT: PRESS PLAY OF MAY 1 FIGHTING SPEAKS OF HEAVY CASUALTIES INCURRED BY HOSTILE FORCES AND GIVES IMPRESSION OF FAZ/MOROCCAN VICTORY, CONTRARY TO REPORT RECEIVED FROM DDN, INDICATING THAT FAZ FORCES HAD BEEN AMBUSHED.

7. DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION:

A. KINSHASA: CALM

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B. LUBUMBASHI: BUSINESS AS USUAL.

C. KOLWEZI: THE PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY SPENT MAY 2 IN KOLWEZI WHERE HE VISITED WOUNDED MOROCCAN AND ZAIRIAN SOLDIERS IN THE HOSPITAL. HE IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A VISIT INTO THE KASAIS MAY 3 AND RETURN TO LUBUMBASHI SAME EVENING.

D. KAMINA: NO CHANGES REPORTED.

8. DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY:

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE ANNOUNCED MAY 2 THE SUSPENSION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATED THAT EAST GERMAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE "EXECUTION OF A DARK PLOT" AGAINST ZAIRE IN SHABA WAS REASON FOR SUSPENSION. (SEE KINSHASA 4125.)

B. ZAIRIAN FOMIN NGUZA, MAY 2, CALLED IN CHIEFS OF MISSION TO DISPLAY CAPTURED SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN ARMS AND TO REPEAT CHARGES OF SOVIET/CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABAN INVASION. NGUZA PRAISED NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT AND STATED THAT GOZ WAS WILLING TO WORK FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH LUANDA. (SEE KINSHASA 4146.)

9. AMERICAN CITIZEN SITUATION: NO CONTACT AGAIN WITH KAPANGA ON MAY 2. AS OF MAY 3 A.M., CIS REPORTS THAT CIS TEAM ARRIVED KOLWEZI AS SCHEDULED (SITREP 47).

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Message Attributes

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